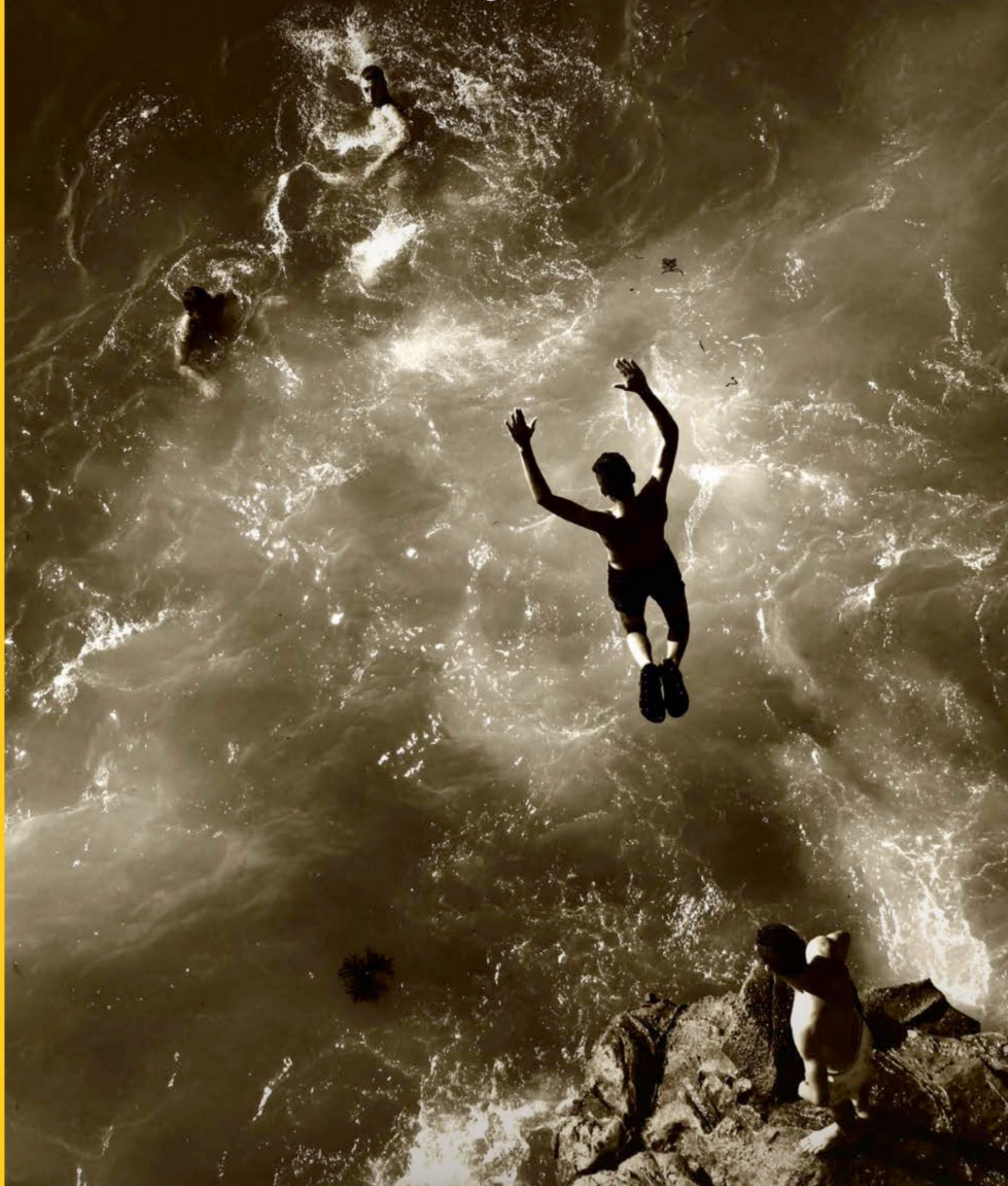


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COMPETITION 2015

Action • Animal • People • River • Rural • Urban



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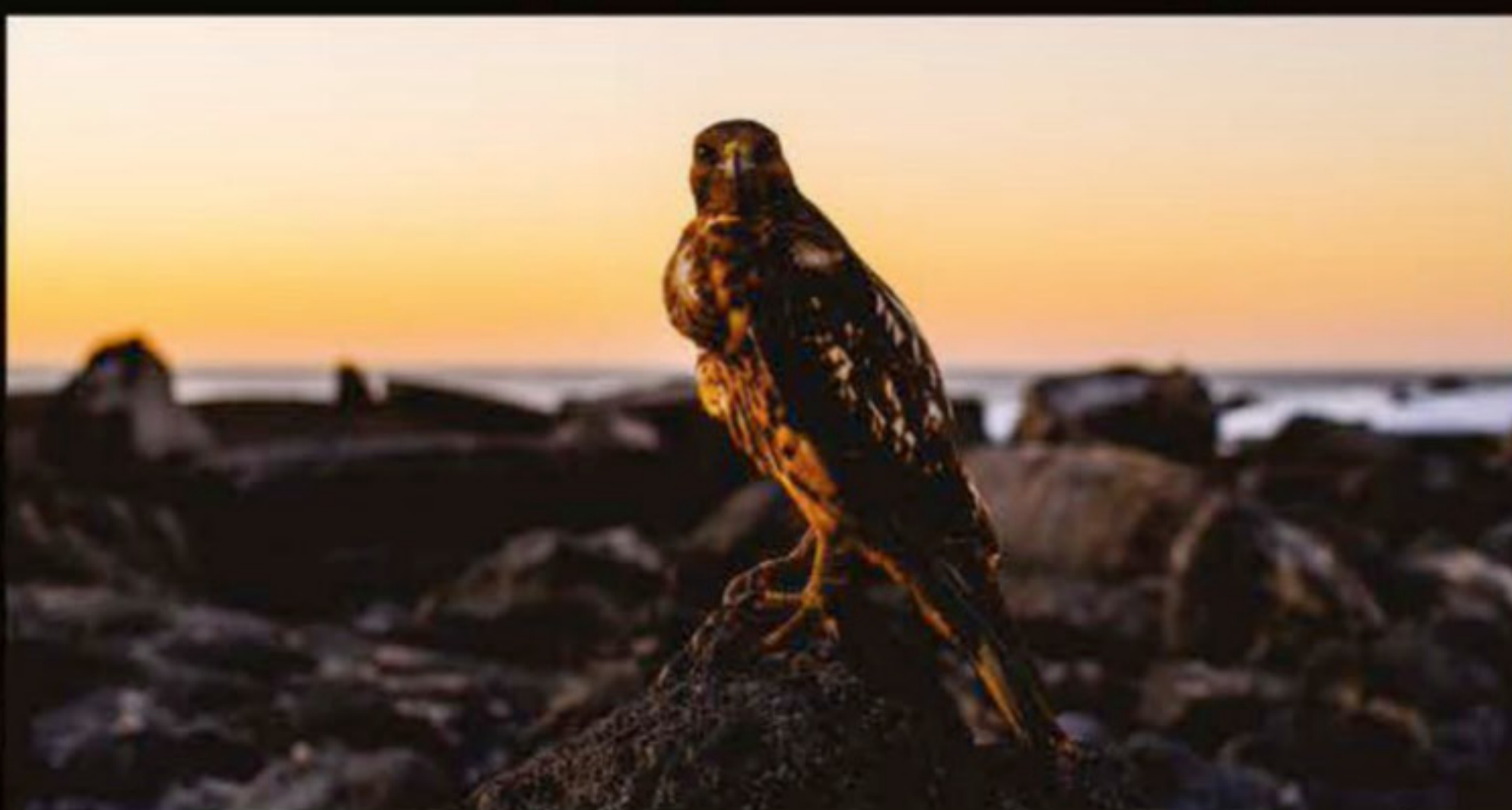
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WELCOME

Around the world in pictures

Welcome to the *National Geographic Traveller* Photography Competition 2015 — and our guide, dedicated to the very best of this year's entries.

When faced with the daunting task of judging our fourth competition, we tried to stick to our brand mantra — authentic 'you-are-there' photography that not only intrigues the viewer with the story behind the shot but makes them feel they could be experiencing the moment, too. From epic train rides in Sri Lanka to London at twilight and a bear ritual in Romania, the result is a fantastic array of travel photographs captured around the world.

We were proud to announce our grand-prize winner at the Telegraph Outdoor Adventure & Travel Show and to exhibit 18 of the most accomplished images at London's theprintspace (20 February-4 March). And for the first time, the winners and selected works from the shortlist are also available to buy as high-quality prints from theprintspace's dedicated online art-sales platform, thehub: art.tt/8vs

To see the full shortlist, log on to natgeotraveller.co.uk/photo-competition-2015

Chris Hudson, group art editor



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CONTENTS

- 06 Grand-prize winner
- 08 People
- 12 Action
- 14 Animal
- 18 Urban
- 20 Rural
- 22 River



Focal length: 20mm Exposure: F/10, 1/25 sec ISO 100 © Ian Plant

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Theprintspace makes archival fine art prints and frames for some of the UK's most prestigious galleries, photographers and artists. As well as exhibiting 18 of the best submissions at its Hoxton gallery, it also hosts an online platform, thehub, where you can purchase selected works from the shortlist. art.tt/8vs theprintspace.com

Tatra Photography

Offering photography workshops across the world, Tatra Photography is taking the grand-prize winner on a tour for two to Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve to go in search of the wildebeest migration. The winner's best shots from the trip will appear in an issue of *National Geographic Traveller*. tatrphotographyworkshop.com

Viking River Cruises

The cruise operator, which takes guests on curated, elegant voyages along some of the most iconic rivers in Europe and the Far East, sponsored the inaugural 'River' category. The winner of this category won a place on its eight-day Romantic Danube itinerary. vikingcruises.co.uk



theprintspace



THE JUDGES

DUNCAN LONGDEN

A freelance photographer based in Taiwan. duncanlongden.photography

SIMON STAFFORD

A regular contributor to the UK photographic press. simonstafford.co.uk

CAROL ENQUIST

Senior photo editor at *National Geographic Traveler* (US). nationalgeographic.com

WENDY ATKIN-SMITH

Wendy is the UK managing director for Viking River Cruises. vikingcruises.co.uk

KALEY SWEENEY

Writer and content manager at the World Photography Organisation. worldphoto.org



GRAND-PRIZE
WINNER

THE BEAR'S DANCE

Alecsandra Raluca Dragoi's powerful image, shot in Comanesti, Romania, captures the New Year ritual bear dances. Not only did it top the People category, it's also this year's grand-prize winner. Judge Duncan Longden said: "Using a shallow depth of field to isolate the main subject, and then colour to lead your eye, works really well for this shot. There's a fascinating story being told here, and it makes me eager to find out more."

Alecsandra explained: "The bear is a symbol for Romania and has been used for hundreds of years in novels and poems. The bear skins were not from bears killed as part of the ritual, nor were they killed especially for it. The costumes are kept and preserved for decades from ancestors and used only for the New Year traditions."

◀ ***Alecsandra Raluca Dragoi, London***

Accompanied by their gypsy trainer and a youth beating a tambourine-type instrument, the 'bears' crawl through the crowd. Reaching the centre, they perform a dance until they eventually feign death and fall to the ground.

A FACE IN THE CROWD

National Geographic Traveller group art editor Chris Hudson said of runner-up Tom Wright's image (right): "Often the most successful shots are those that capture a moment. Travel photography isn't always about the place itself, but the life and soul of a destination, which is often best conveyed by the people living there. This is something that Tom has achieved with aplomb."



Tom Wright, *Bridgend*

The Umbrella Revolution — the Hong Kong protests of 2014 — marked a significant change in political attitudes. Yet despite the controversy, the protests were a haven of peace, organisation and self-sufficiency. Nothing epitomised this more than a child playing with a symbolic umbrella in the protest camp at Admiralty Bay.





◀ James Doyle, Penzance

This was taken in Tolbo, Bayan-Ölgii Province, Mongolia, in 2014. After living with Becen in his house for a few days, intimate moments that he shared with his eagle were frequent, and a loving bond was obvious. Becen, 52, is a seventh-generation *berkutchi* (eagle hunter), who started hunting with eagles when he was 21.

◀◀ Caner Tandogdu, Newcastle

The day was coming to an end as I was discovering the mystic streets of Chefchaouen in Morocco (far left). Suddenly, I heard tumbling tin noises mixed with the sound of slippers slapping the steps. This girl was going about her everyday life without realising my presence. That gave me a perfect chance to capture the iconic colours in a casual way.





◀ **Chris Deeney, Abingdon**

A beautiful young woman in a colourful costume performed the traditional Legong trance dance at Ubud Palace in Bali, Indonesia. Her graceful, minutely choreographed movements were truly hypnotic against the background gongs of a gamelan orchestra.

◀◀ **Chris Dade, Brighton**

Gabriel (far left) welcomed me into his home in Chamwino, near Dodoma, Tanzania, where volunteers from Raleigh International — the sustainable development charity — are working with hard-to-reach rural communities.



◀ **Gavin Burnett, Stockport**

This was taken during the Holi festival in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta), India, in March 2014. With my camera wrapped in a freezer bag, I headed to the 'festival of colours' celebrations. I saw this reveller on the periphery of the action and asked permission to take a photo.

▲ **Naf Selmani, London**

'Santacon', 6 December 2014: this flashmob-style gathering saw Santas from the north, east and south of London giving out gifts and free hugs, singing carols and popping into pubs, before converging for one big parade. This heart-of-the-action image was taken at Old Spitalfields Market.

MAKING TRACKS

The Action category was won by Yanick Targonski. “A good action picture captures the excitement of the moment and conveys this to the viewer,” said judge Simon Stafford. “His creative use of shutter speed imparts a real sense of speed, while the curve of the train draws the eye into the scene.”



► *Joseph Conlon, Isleworth*

The Moroccan town of Essaouira was the location of this child's leap of faith. Egged on by his friends, he hesitated before taking a step into the unknown.



► *Paul Joynson-Hicks, Sevenoaks*

These two lion cubs were photographed in the Ngorongoro Crater, northern Tanzania. I shot the image in the early morning while the cubs were still active, and before it got too hot. At this young age, they're often left in the bush while their mother heads off to hunt.





▲ **Yanick Targonski, London**

I was in Sri Lanka, on the train from Ella to Kandy, hanging outside the door at full speed, while not only juggling the camera with one hand, but holding as still as possible to avoid camera shake. It was a tricky shot, but you won't get any closer to the action.

◀ **Kevin Morgans, Birkenhead**

A lone bear clamming on the Lake Clark estuary in Alaska allowed me into her world one morning. It was a very peaceful moment, with just myself, the bear and not a sound to be heard. I tried to portray this through the simplicity of the image.

BEAUTIES & THE BEASTS

Simon Stafford said of Barry Robertson’s winning image (bottom of the page):
“Positioning the camera at the subject’s eye level has added real impact to the picture, while the proximity of the camera, combined with the expansive field of view, forms a strong intimacy that places the viewer in the midst of the subject’s environment.”



◀ **Ben Swallow, St Andrews**
This white-capped albatross near Kaikoura, on New Zealand’s South Island, was very obliging, taking off from the rough swell and causing water droplets to spray all around it.

▶ **Michael Gallagher, London**
At Whipsnade Zoo, in England, an endangered Siberian tiger stared intently into my lens. Despite being in captivity, I was still unnerved by the power, confidence and intelligence in the predator’s stare.



CATEGORY
WINNER

Barry Robertson, High Wycombe
While my wife was photographing gentoo penguins coming out of the water in the Falkland Islands, I dug a small hole in the sand, where I laid in wait for hours before these curious chaps came over to see who I was.





▲▲ *Steve Russell, Cirencester*

Under the leaden sky of the Kenyan Maasai Mara plains, an ancient matriarch elephant trudged along searching for shade. Vultures waited in a balanites tree, lit with beautiful afternoon light. I waited for the moment when the old girl wearily stepped into frame.

▲ *Lotte de la Peña, Bristol*

This image (above) was taken one morning on Laguna Colorada in Bolivia. A group of llamas were having an early morning drink on the shallow lake — it looked like they were walking on water. I was trying not to disturb them, but one llama looked right at me.

**▲ *Angus Stead, Leeds***

I'd built a mobile camera housing in an attempt to get some close-up, wide-angled images of African wildlife from ground level in Kenya's Maasai Mara National Reserve. Having decided to try to focus on a local pride of lions, I spent the first few days gently introducing the camera unit to see how the lions would react. The young cubs were predictably curious yet cautious at first, and it was one of those moments captured here. Feeling protected, the smallest cub came striding between the two larger cubs to create a family portrait.

CITY LIGHTS

National Geographic Traveller's art editor, Chris Hudson, said of the Urban winning image: "Despite it being a subject we've seen a million times before, Philip's entry stood out because of the technical understanding behind the shot."



CATEGORY
WINNER

▲ **Philip Braude, London**

I shot this image of London's Southbank to show wilderness at the heart of the city. I chose a well-known cityscape to make the image familiar, while using two flashes to highlight the natural landscape.

► **Cindy-Lou Dale
Lydd**

The graffiti in Shoreditch, east London, pushes the boundaries of urban art. Some works are weirdly wacky or raw and disturbing; others in-your-face political statements. But most of all they demand an immediate reaction.



▲▲ **Richard Davis,
London**

New Year's Day sales shopping in the souks north of Jemaa el Fna, Marrakesh, Morocco, opened a world of excitement.

▲ **Tedz Duran,
London**

For this shot, at London's Bond Street station, I waited for the train to leave to capture its movement and the commuters.

HIDDEN DEPTHS

Duncan Longden said of Chris Miller’s shot (far right), “This really stood out for me. It has it all: scale, drama, composition, a great story and a sense of adventure. He clearly understands how to make a good exposure to optimise the finished image. Would I have it on my wall? Definitely, yes.”

► **Andrew Magee, Glasgow**

This view towards Loch Venachar — between Lochearnhead and Callander — sums up the beauty of Scotland and the fact we often have four seasons in one day.



◀ **Dawn Lao, Saffron Walden**

Taken at 13,450ft above sea level in the Sierra region of Ecuador, this image illustrates just one of many terrains and cultures in this richly diverse country.

▲ **Ed Salter, London**

A Vietnamese farmer stands proudly on his water buffalo as the sun sets near Hoi An. I wanted to capture his relaxed attitude, reflected in the tranquillity of the rice fields surrounding him.



CATEGORY
WINNER

Chris Miller, London

Son Doong Cave, located deep in the Vietnamese jungle, is the world's biggest cave and was only explored for the first time in 2009. It's so big it has its own weather system and a Boeing 747 could fly through its largest cavern. The vegetation seen here fell inside the cave when the roof collapsed (the jungle floor is around 150 metres further above).

REFLECTED GLORY

“Obviously, braving the conditions to create this well-balanced river photograph, Claire’s use of the frozen craggy river to mirror both the mountains in reflection and texture is excellent,” said Duncan Longden, of Claire Carter’s winning shot.

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▲ **Chaitanya Deshpande, London**

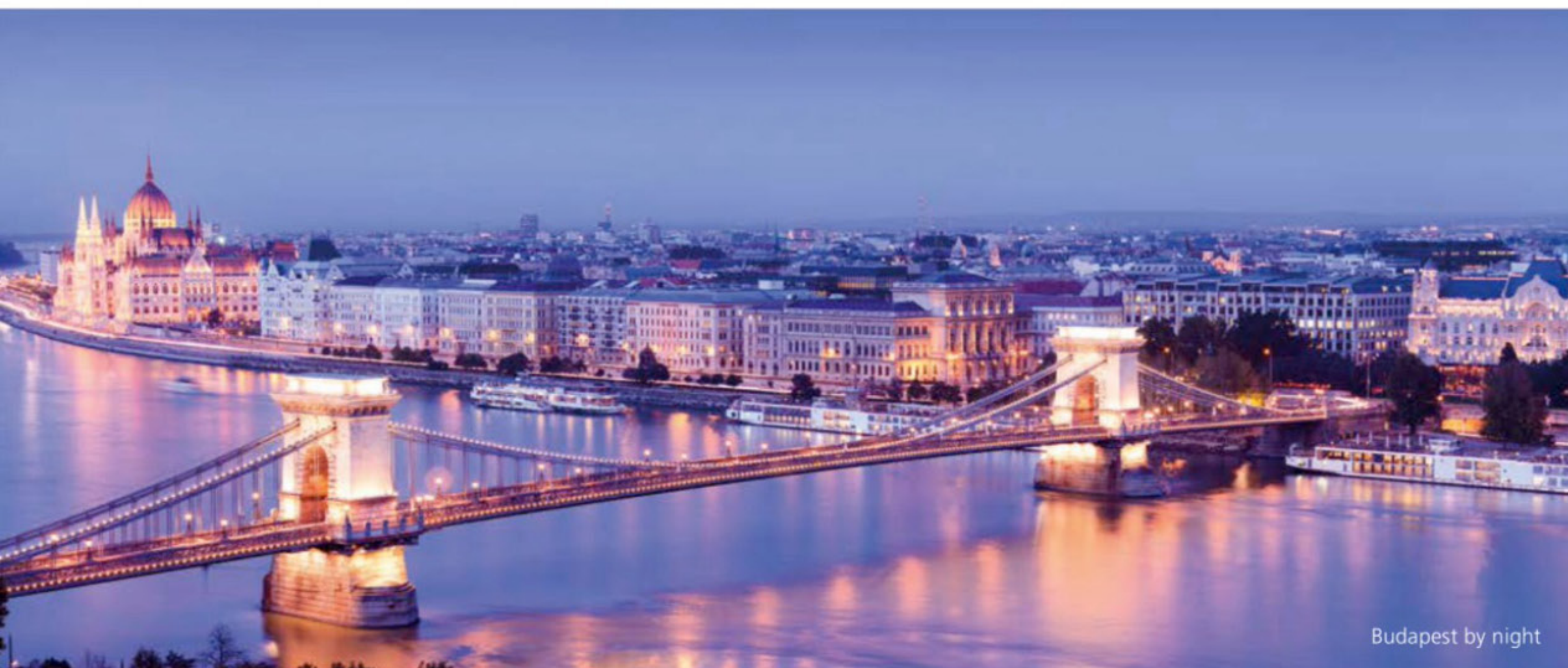
This was taken at Westminster Bridge facing the Houses of Parliament. When I arrived, it was exactly as I wanted it — like a perfect mirror. It was breathtaking. Just after I took it, the morning’s first ferry cut through the water and the inverted ‘city in the Thames’ dissolved in ripples.



▲ **Gabriella Brunton, London**

Sunrise in Kenya’s Lake Nakuru National Park. Digby (pictured) was watching the water and having a moment of contemplation before we set off, and as the sun rose behind him, it created this beautiful reflection on the water.

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